Greeting Card Collection
MS11

Finding aid prepared by Kelly Peters, April 2004

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April 06, 2016

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Enoch Pratt Free Library Special Collections
April, 2004
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Summary Information

Repository	Enoch Pratt Free Library Special Collections
Title	Greeting Card Collection
Date	1870-1988
Extent	12.0 Linear feet 10 boxes
Language	English
Mixed materials [Box]	1-10
Container	1-676
Abstract	The Greeting Card Collection has over 7,100 holiday, greeting, souvenir and Valentine’s cards. The collection was developed from a number of small gifts to the library. Greeting cards open a window to the past and let us see a little of how people celebrated their holidays and how those celebrations may have changed over the years. The notes inside often offer a particularly intimate glimpse of American family life and devotion. The collection also lets us see over 100 years of the history, growth and development of the greeting card industry.

Biographical/Historical

The collection was developed from a number of small gifts to the library. Susan Romano processed the collection and Kelly Peters completed the finding aid.

Scope and Contents

The Greeting Card Collection includes 7,100 items; holiday, greeting, souvenir and Valentine's cards. The majority of the greeting cards are Christmas cards, housed in six out of the ten boxes and totaling 466 folders in the collection. The rest of the cards are dedicated to Valentine's Day (the second largest part of the collection) Easter, shower, graduation, and other celebratory events. The collection is broken up into ten series. The entire collection is arranged alphabetically by subject, then chronologically.

Arrangement

Series

1. Christmas: Boars head- Families 1880-1962 The second series is the first full box of Christmas greeting cards. Folders are arranged alphabetically by subject then chronologically.
2. Christmas: Family Names 1925-1962- Holly The third series is the second full box of Christmas cards. Folders are arranged alphabetically by subject then chronologically.
3. Christmas: Insects- Ornaments 1945-1969 The fourth series is the third full box of Christmas cards. Folders are arranged alphabetically by subject then chronologically.
4. Christmas: Outdoor Scenes- Snowmen The fifth series is the fourth full box of Christmas cards. Folders are arranged alphabetically by subject then chronologically.
5. Christmas: St. Nick Booklets- Easter: Animals The sixth series is the final box of Christmas cards and the beginning of the Easter cards. Folders are arranged alphabetically by subject then chronologically.
6. Easter: Crafts- Valentine's: Animals-Stand-ups The seventh series is the final box of Easter cards and the beginning of the second biggest part of the collection, Valentine cards. It is in the Valentine collection that mechanical and stand-up cards first appear from the entire greeting card collection. Folders are arranged alphabetically by subject then chronologically.
7. Valentine's: Birthday- Welcome Home The eighth series is the final box of regular sized greeting cards. Folders are arranged alphabetically by subject then chronologically.

8 Oversized Cards The ninth series is a collection of ten cards- mostly dealing with love and affection with decorative additions to the card. These cards are not arranged in any particular order.

9 Scrapbooks The tenth series contains three scrapbooks given to the library as a gift. All three are a miscellaneous assortment of greeting cards compiled into a book form. One book was given to the library in 1937 while the other two were given in 1941. Box 10 contains the first volume of one set of scrapbooks where the cards were removed for preservation purposes. This series is arranged by the year the book was given to the library.

Administrative Information

Publication Information

Enoch Pratt Free Library Special Collections April, 2004

Revision Description

Entered into Archivist's Toolkit by Joan M. Wolk January, 2015

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Immediate Source of Acquisition note

The collection developed from a number of small gifts to the library.

Controlled Access Headings

Genre(s)

- birthday cards
- Christmas cards
- Confirmation cards
- Easter cards
- Engagement cards
- Father's Day cards
- Greeting cards
- scrapbooks
- Valentines
- Wedding cards

Subject(s)

- Mother's Day

Collection Inventory

Series I: Baby Shower- Christmas: Birds 1975-1988	Box 1	Folder 1-85
		Folder
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Best Wishes 1870-1917		2-3
Best Wishes miscellaneous		4
Birthday Greetings 1881-1983		5-7
Birthday Greetings miscellaneous		8-10
Bon Voyage		11
Bridal Shower		12
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Christmas: Airplanes		19

Christmas: American Artists 1946-1988	20
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Christmas: Baltimore Artists: Heiss, Arthur	65
Christmas: Baltimore Artists: Wirth, Robert	66
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Handmade miscellaneous	248-249
Holly 1890-1988	250-256
Holly miscellaneous	257-259

Series VI: Christmas: Insects-Ornaments	**Box**	**Folder**
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	Folder
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Landscapes miscellaneous	275-277
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Madonna miscellaneous	284
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Military miscellaneous	296
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Easter: Flowers miscellaneous		529-531
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